Abstract

A sample processing instrument and in particular an automatic analyzer is proposed comprising at least one vessel holding device (34) that has a vessel holding zone (32) provided with holder openings (30) to hold sample vessels or reaction vessels (14) wherein at least in the area of the holder openings (30), the surface of the holding zone (32) is formed by a highly electrically conductive material and in particular a material that does not have a tendency to form an electrically insulating passive layer in air and is preferably connected to an electrical reference potential in particular an earth potential. Nickel or a nickel alloy are suitable as the highly electrically conductive material which in particular does not have a tendency to form an insulating passive layer.